

'HOT' SWEATER . . . Before Spark Hits
TOUCHED BY MATCH . . . After 5 Seconds
FLAMES START . . . After 10 Seconds
BLAZING INFERNO . . . After 20 Seconds
CHARRED REMAINS . . . It Took 30 Seconds —HERALD PHOTO

Merry Christmas

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3000 Kids Expected at Christmas Party



SANTA MAKES A STOP . . . Santa Claus made a quick stop Tuesday at El Nido school. Here he pauses to talk to first graders Midori Nakawatase and Carl Hasslinger. St. Nick visited each classroom at the school, distributing gifts. (Herald photo)

Mayor Supports Water Issue

Approval of the water issue by Torrance voters next month is one way of maintaining the high value of Torrance homes, Mayor Bob Haggard, a long-time real estate authority in this area, said this week.

Pointing out that industry is the backbone of the community because it is the "place where people go to work," Mayor Haggard said the well being of Torrance residents depended on the level of employment maintained by industries here.

"When industry expands," he explained, "all can have jobs. At the same time, high valuation will continue as long as employment levels are high."

He recalled the bleak days of the '30s when employment was at a low level and said the property values in Torrance and else-

where were at an extremely low point.

"In addition to providing for the present, we must provide for the future development of the city's residential and industrial growth," the Mayor said.

Torrance covers an area of more than 18 square miles and the present water system was designed to supply a population of 8500. Right now, the city's estimated population is about 31,000.

"With a population increase of more than 20,000 since the installation of the present water system, and with industrial demand for water more than tripled during that time, it is almost impossible to serve the city's water customers," Mayor Haggard said. He added that none of the water

users, homes, business, or industry, can be adequately supplied. It takes a lot of water to keep the parks and playgrounds of the city green, the Mayor said. Without a modernization of the city's water system, the possibility exists that these recreation areas may go dry.

"Let's keep them green, beautiful and usable," he said.

He also reiterated the statements made by Fire Chief J. J. Benner last week about the part an adequate supply of water plays in fire prevention, and in determining fire insurance rates.

"A sound fire-fighting system is usually one of the first steps in rate reduction," he said.

A sound fire-fighting system is impossible without an adequate supply of water to all points of the city.

TV Stars, Santa To Greet Kids At Xmas Party

Doors of Civic Auditorium will swing open at 12:30 p.m. this afternoon for more than 3000 children, as the Torrance Lions Club plays host for its sixth annual Christmas party.

The party will begin at 1 p.m. and will feature several television stars, who will share top billing with Santa Claus.

The two-hour show will start with the appearance of TV Star Nancy Wible and her talking doll, Candy Sugarpine. The KECA-TV performer will put on a half-hour show.

At 1:30 Santa Claus will take over the main spotlight for a half-hour. At 2, Patricia and Rosemarie Iannone, KTLA stars, will take over for their part of the program. The youthful sisters will also have a half-hour for their act.

The last half-hour of the program will be devoted to passing out candy and fruit to the children in attendance.

Lions Roy Peterson and Walt Schaefer are acting as program chairmen for the party, with assistance from Milt Isobel, Frank Carpenter is acting as the party coordinator, and George Colburn is in charge of the candy and basket purchases. Torrance Fire Department has taken over the job of packaging the fruit and candy.

Seventy members of the Torrance Auxiliary Police will assist the Lions during the party. Officer D. C. Cook will be in charge of the TAPs.

Gyp Peddlers Back at Work, Walker Warns

Gyp peddlers who thrive during the Christmas season are back at work again in Torrance, Blaine Walker, executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, warned.

Walker said that the Chamber has received an average of one call per day reporting activities of the gyp artists.

Most of the gyp peddlers are hawking some sort of Christmas gifts or decorations, which they offer at "bargain" prices to prospective purchasers.



BOY OF YEAR . . . Jack O'Call, president of the Torrance High School student body, was named Hi-Y Boy of the Year yesterday to represent the Torrance Branch of the YMCA in forthcoming Los Angeles Area competition. He will compete in the Harbor Division elimination Jan. 8. —Herald photo.

Last Call Given For Xmas Home Decor Judging

Time is running out for the filling of entries for the fifth annual Torrance Terrace Garden Club outdoor Christmas decorating contest.

Entries must be filed before the judging begins on Sunday night, December 23.

Some houses in the Torrance area already have outdoor decorations up, but only a few have filed contest entries. The contest is open to any person in Torrance and the surrounding area who puts up outdoor Yuletide displays at home.

First and second prize winners will receive a year's subscription to a national garden magazine.

The club member which the best display will also receive a prize, the club announced.

Entries may be submitted by phone to Mrs. Frank J. Farrell, 2417-W; Mrs. John Erison, 3349-W, or Mrs. Roy J. Gossett, Terminal 3-6686.

'Hot' Sweaters Frighten City Fire Officials

There's one Christmas deal going around the area in which the customer can really get burned.

The gimmick is "Hot" sweaters. And these are really hot.

To show how hot they are, Fire Chief J. J. Benner this week touched a match to one which had been picked up by the Fire Department in Torrance. It was ashes in a little more than 30 seconds.

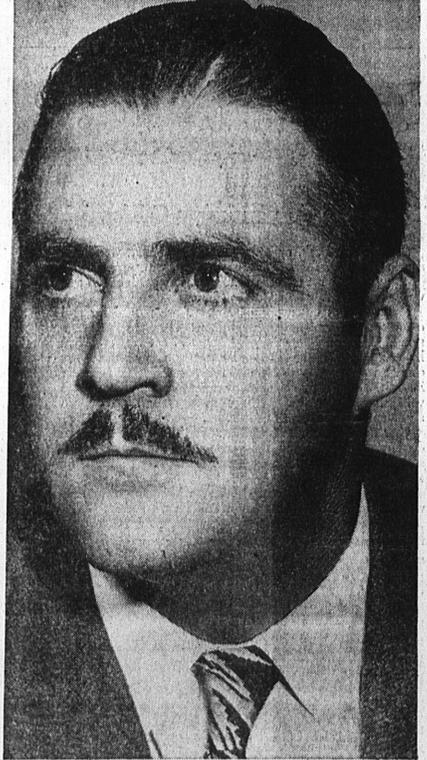
Made of brushed knit rayon fabric having a fuzzy, fluffy surface, the sweaters are being sold in the area by door-to-door peddlers.

They cannot be purchased in any stores, Fire Chief Benner emphasized.

The sweaters ignite from spark or flame, and are immediately enveloped in a racing flame.

"These sweaters, which have been sold under a number of brand names, can turn many a Christmas morning into tragedy," the fire chief warned.

If anyone in the area has purchased such garments from door-to-door peddlers, a check with the Fire Department by phoning Torrance 3126 might save a life Christmas morning.



ANGUS E. McVICAR
 . . . Water Superintendent

McVicar to Head Water Department

Angus E. McVicar, acting superintendent of the Torrance Water Department since the resignation of William Stanger, was appointed by the City Council last week to serve his probation period as the superintendent. The appointment came as a result of Civil Service examinations conducted for the position.

The new superintendent came to the Water Department here in February, 1948, as assistant superintendent. He was graduated from high school in Seattle, Washington, received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Arizona, and is a member of Theta Tau and Tau Beta Pi, national honorary engineering fraternities.

Before coming to Torrance, he spent three years with the Southern California Gas Company as industrial service engineer, then spent four years with the Torrance Brass Foundry as process engineer.

He has been secretary-treasurer of the Torrance Kiwanis Club since 1948, and a member since 1943. He is a member of the American Water Works Association and a member of the Torrance Toastmasters Club.

He and his wife, Deloris, live at 2562 Torrance boulevard. They have three daughters and one son. One daughter, Patricia Jean, is the wife of Patrick Conner. They have a 3-months-old daughter.

Santa to Stop Downtown

Santa Claus will pause in Torrance from noon until dark on Friday, Saturday and Monday to take orders from children for Christmas morning deliveries.

The gent in the red coat will circulate during his stop in Torrance. He will give out candy to children.